

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended in line 1 and parts (a) (iii), (b) and (c).

Claim 5 is amended to replace "actuator" with "mechanism" to more clearly define the structure.

Claim 11 has been amended to replace "actuator" with "mechanism" as more descriptive of the step.

Claim 16 has been amended to clarify the steps (a), (c), (d) and (f).

Claims 17 through 20 have been amended to clarify the steps.

Claim 21 has been added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A lumber storing device device for avoiding or correcting warpage of lumber comprising:

(a) a series of at least two frameworks;

(i) each having a bottom, two sides and a top forming right angles,

(ii) the bottom, top and sides of each framework
defining an interior periphery,

(iii) at least one aperture in each top and in one of the ~~each of~~ two sides of each framework,

(b) a flat face member supported within each framework from each aperture by a force actuator mechanism for moving each such flat face members inward and outward transverse to each other; and

(c) each flat face member designed ~~for engaging~~ upon inward movement to engage uniform surfaces of a stack of lumber or lumber and a block of material positioned between and within the interior periphery of each of said series of at least of two frameworks with sufficient force to maintain the pieces of lumber free of warpage; warpage.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The device of Claim 1 wherein the top is hinged to one side and releasably attached to the other side of each framework.

5. (currently amended) The device of Claim 1 wherein the force actuator mechanism is a screw drive mechanism.
6. (original) The device of Claim 1 wherein each framework includes symmetrical members for supporting each framework from an upright structural surface.
7. (original) The device of Claim 1 wherein each framework is rectangular or square in shape.
8. (original) The device of Claim 7 wherein a linkage member retains each rectangular or square framework linked to each other spaced apart.
9. (original) The device of Claim 8 wherein each framework includes a pair of rollers mounted to the bottom thereof.
10. (original) The device of Claim 1 wherein each of the frameworks of the series of at least two frameworks are spaced apart sufficiently to avoid or correct warping.
11. (currently amended) In a method of storing stacks of lumber to avoid or correct warpage, the improvement comprising;
 - (a) providing at least two rectangular frameworks ~~space~~ spaced apart, each defining an interior periphery with channels therein and open throughout for supporting a stack of lumber within and therebetween;
 - (b) mounting on each framework a horizontal force actuator mechanism and a vertical force actuator mechanism, each actuator mechanism includes an arm and flat faced member for transverse movement, relatively to each other, within the confines of the interior periphery;

(c) placing a stack of lumber extending between and within each framework;
and

(d) activating the horizontal force actuator mechanism and the vertical force actuator mechanism to move each such flat face member into engagement with uniform exposed surfaces of the stack of lumber with a compressive force sufficient to avoid or correct warpage.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the stack of lumber is placed extending between and within each rectangular framework through a hinged and latching side of each rectangular framework.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein filler blocks are placed in each rectangular framework to form a uniform exposed surface for engagement by each flat face member.

14. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein rollers are mounted on each of the frameworks to provide mobility to the stack.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein brackets are secured to each framework for mounting them to an upright structure.

16. (currently amended) A method of storing lumber in stacks to avoid or correct warpage comprising:

(a) providing a pair of spaced apart frameworks adapted to accommodate a ~~uniform~~ stack of lumber therein and therebetween;

(b) designing each framework as a rectangle or square defining an interior periphery;

(c) mounting, on each framework, a pair of actuators each having a flat face members member ~~such that the travel path of the flat face members are~~ for inward and outward movement transverse with each other within the interior periphery of each ~~of such pair of frameworks; the framework;~~

(d) securing the frameworks spaced apart with a linkage connector member;

(e) stacking lumber to form a uniform stack extending between and within the interior periphery of each of the pair of frameworks; and

(f) activating the actuators for inward movement of the flat face members to engage the uniform stack ~~of lumber with the flat face members with~~ and apply sufficient force compression to avoid or correct warpage.

17. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 45 16 wherein the linkage connector member retains the pair of frameworks spaced apart a sufficient distance to ~~avoid or correct~~ accommodate avoidance or correction of warpage of the stack.

18. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 45 16 wherein lumber may be withdrawn from the stack and replaced by a block of material within each framework thereby retaining the uniformity of the ~~lumber~~ stack within each framework.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 18 wherein the block of material is lumber.

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 18 wherein the block of material is other than lumber subject to warpage.

21. (new) The method of Claim 16 wherein lumber may be withdrawn from the stack and replaced by other lumber from different stacks.